

## Psalm 59

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- **Altas-chith: melody of destroy me not.**
- When Saul's men surrounded David's house, waiting to kill him. (1 Samuel 19:10-17)
- David is in his early 20's or so, he's married to Saul's daughter Michal, whom he'd won or received as a prize for killing Goliath. Early on it would appear that they had a good marriage.
- Realizing that Saul's men were waiting just outside his house to kill him, David and Michal hatched a plan. She helped lower David out of a window and he was able to escape. She then placed "an image" and some pillows in David's bed and covered them with blankets, pretending David to be in his bed. In the morning when the king's men demanded to see David, she said he was sick in bed and couldn't be moved.
- When they returned to Saul and told him David was sick, Saul ordered the men to bring David in his bed so he could kill him. The men returned and carried David's bed back to the king who wasn't too happy to find that they'd been faked out.
- Saul accused his daughter of treachery, but she lied and said that she'd been threatened. All in all David escaped, and Saul began to see the first of what would be many defeats as David escaped over and over again. (Wiley Coyote & Road Runner)

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V: 1 Again David prays for God's deliverance, for God to defend him from his enemies which now includes Saul.

- From those that have risen up against him: these are probably some of the same men that David led into battle against the Philistines, the same men that have followed David as their leader, now they are rising up against him.

David has prayed this and similar prayers fairly frequently:

**Psalm 20:1-2** "1The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee; 2send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion;"

V: 2 Deliver me from wicked men, from "bloody men" - or "blood thirsty men."

- When I read that term bloody or blood thirsty men, men who yearn for blood, like ravening wolves with a blood lust, wicked men. It's one thing to have to shed blood, it's another thing all together to want to shed blood.

- Often times we read about David's "mighty men of valor" - this group of men who didn't necessarily start off so honorably, but certainly ended up that way - taking on the attributes of their leader David, trickling down to them they became more and more like David, a mighty man of valor in his own right.
- **Have you ever heard of Saul's mighty men of valor?** I haven't either, it would seem that he only attracted wicked, blood thirsty men, men like Doeg the Edomite and other's of his ilk. Men ready and willing do Saul's evil bidding.

**1 Corinthians 15:33** "Be not deceived: evil communications / company corrupt good manners / habits."

V: 3-5 From those that lie in wait, these men had waited all night to catch David. We also have an enemy that is ever waiting for us, trying to catch us and kill us.

**1 Peter 5:8** "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

- David declares his innocence, he hasn't done anything against Saul, in fact he's been one of Saul's most devoted and loyal servants, which makes Saul's treachery all the more heinous.
- <sup>5b</sup>Show them no mercy Lord! Don't be merciful to these wicked transgressors!

V: 6-7 Describing his enemies: making noises like a dog - growling, menacing, on the prowl. Rude, vulgar, belching out their threats - declaring no one will hear, meaning that God will not hear, there is none to help - you're toast!

- They presume a lot - God is listening, God is watching - they are digging a pit for themselves!

**Psalm 34:17** "The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles."

V: 8-9 God just kind of chuckles because He knows that their day is coming; He'll have them in "derision."

- Heathen, Goyim, Gentiles (non-believers, Jewish men who've forsaken true Judaism) derision, scoff, mock. Derision is to hold in contemptuous mockery.
- David declares that God is his defense: God will allow us to defend ourselves if we so choose, but David wants God to defend him.

**Psalm 62:6** "He only is my Rock and my Salvation: He is my defence; I shall not be moved."

V: 10 “... *shall prevent me...*” from being captured by my enemies.

- God will give him the victory, he shall see his desire upon them.

V: 11-13 If they die, they'll just be forgotten, but defeat them, scatter them about so that others may learn from their example.

- Because of what they're saying and their arrogant attitude, may they be humbled, taken in their pride.
- <sup>13</sup>Consume them that they be not sounds an awful lot like “*do them in...*”
- Perhaps the intent is that after they been scattered in defeat, put on public display, then do away with them - all for the purpose of demonstrating what happens when you go against God's anointed, and that God does truly rule upon the earth.

V: 14-15 David isn't done praying curses upon them yet... at the evening time, when they should be at rest, let them wander like the dogs they are and be hungry, let them not be satisfied.

- This is the 2nd time David has said let them make noises like a dog. Dogs make different noises; as mentioned earlier they can growl and be menacing, or they can be whimpering and pathetic.
- I think David is saying, may they whimper through the night in hunger and distress, may their ribs stick out and may their tail be between their legs, and give them lots of fleas...

V: 16-17 As David turns from focusing on his enemies to focusing on God, he begins to praise and to worship - singing of His power, his mercy - again declaring that God has been his help in time of need and a refuge in his time of trouble.

- David begins once again to see his problems, his enemies in light of who God is.
- David is assuming that in the morning these bloodthirsty men are going to break down the door and take him to Saul for execution; but he's trusting in the Lord for deliverance.
- David begins this Psalm with a desperate plea for deliverance, but he concludes it by praising God for being his defence, and for being merciful, in essence for having already saved him.

**Philippians 4:6-7** “<sup>6</sup>Be careful / anxious for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

<sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

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## *Psalm 60*

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- The back ground on this Psalm takes place as David is attacking the Syrians to the North, and the Edomites take advantage of that to attack Jerusalem in the south.
- This Psalm is written after David’s troops initially suffered a defeat at the hands of the Edomites. It was the common custom of the day to only record your victories; the scriptures don’t give us a record of this particular event.
- We learn about it as it is alluded to in this Psalm which apparently leads to the next battle wherein Joab along with David’s army are victorious over the Edomites wherein they kill over 12,000 of them in the Valley of Salt.
- This is another “Michtam” or psalm of instruction.

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V: 1 David’s troops have been scattered, that’s what happens when you lose. They’ve been routed and are in disarray.

- David attributes their defeat to the assumption that for some reason God was displeased with them, his prayer is for God to turn back to them.
- I know this is Hebrew poetry and David is basically asking for God’s favor but the reality is that when we’re feeling distant from God for whatever reason, He’s not the one who moved.

**James 4:8** “Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.”

V: 2-4 David uses the analogy of an earthquake, they been shaken severely. Please heal the breaches, the divisions that have appeared.

- David’s men were not accustomed to defeat - they’ve had to drink the wine of astonishment. Probably with a big slice of “humble pie” to go with it.
- Lord, we’re under your banner for all to see, you are our banner, you are Jehovah Nissi, the LORD our banner, and by the way, the world is watching.

V: 5-6 This is a fascinating statement. David is in a situation, they’ve been defeated by the Edomites and their troops have been scattered in battle.

- In this time of astonishment where does David turn? He turns to the promises of God's Word. "*God hath spoken in His holiness...*" (*underline that!*)
- God has declared that His purpose is for Israel to dwell in the land of Israel.
- David demonstrates that he has a good understanding and working knowledge of the scriptures as he quotes them. At this time the scriptures are primarily the Pentateuch, the first five books of Moses, and some of the historical books.

David declared in Psalm 1

**Psalm 1:1-2** "*<sup>1</sup>Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. <sup>2</sup>But his delight is in the law of the Lord: and in His law doeth he meditate day and night.*"

- David did his homework, he spent time meditating in the Word of God and we see it evidenced here:
- He begins by quoting **Genesis 12:6** - "*<sup>6b</sup>I will divide Shechem, and mete out the valley of Succoth.*"
- He quotes **Joshua 13:27** describing the dividing of the inheritance among the tribes.

V: 7-8 David continues quoting from **Genesis 49**.

- God has given or made promises concerning the tribes of Israel, and David is reminding God of that. You can only do that if you knew what they were to begin with.
- Moab is my washpot; derisive, like where I wash my feet - not a vessel of honor.
- God has declared that they are going to have power over Moab and over Edom; however, Edom presently has triumphed over David's army which is why David is going back to the promises of God for comfort and direction.
- We may have suffered the initial defeat, but God will give us the victory!
- However life might challenge us or get us down at times, all we have to do is check the back of the book, we win! We are victorious in the end.
- That's why it's important to hide God's word in our hearts, to read it, to meditate in it, because it truly is our strength and stay.

V: 9-11 This is referring to the city of Petra, the rock city, the impregnable fortress of the Edomites, David is planning on attacking that city.

- If not the Lord, who will lead them into this city? Man can't help, only God can do this.
- David has come to realize that the source of strength and victory was not in his army or military might, but in the Lord Himself.

**Psalm 20:7** "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the Lord our God."

V: 12 God will give us the victory! David has things in the right perspective, God will lead us to victory.

**Philippians 4:13** "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

God will lead us to victory just as surely as He did King David:

**1 Corinthians 15:57** "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

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## ***Psalm 61***

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- This 61<sup>st</sup> Psalm is thought to have been written as David was fleeing from his son Absalom during his rebellion against David, as David is fleeing to the other side of the Jordan.
- David is crying out to God in this very uncertain time. David is past his prime, he doesn't want to fight his son or his own people, he is utterly dependent upon God for his survival.
- David was known as the "Sweet Psalmist of Israel" - a true worshipper.
- But he was no sissy, he is kind of the original "mighty man of valor" - but he was also an awesome prayer warrior, which is what we see in this Psalm.

**2 Corinthians 10:4** "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds."

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V: 1 Hear my cry, my desperate plea. Attend, give heed, listen carefully to my prayer.

- Prayer answered: He does!

**Psalm 34:15** "The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry."

- I've seen this many times: there can be several kids in the back or somewhere around church as we're all together. One kid begins to cry out - ten moms don't all get up to see who is crying, generally one mom will get up and slip out - because they know the cry of their own child.
- In a similar way if you're a child of God, He knows your cry, He hears you and attends unto your prayers.

V: 2 David has left Jerusalem behind, the Tabernacle; that place of worship and fellowship with God, all left behind - he's feeling that separation.

- The cool thing is, the reality of it is that God is as close as a prayer.

- Prayer help us reach farther: From wherever we are, we can reach out and impact the very ends of the earth in prayer.

**Psalm 121:4** "Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep."

*"... when my heart is overwhelmed..."*

- David's son has rebelled against him, his best friend and counselor has betrayed him, he's on the run, the rebellion is seemingly gathering strength, he's got a crazy Benjamite throwing rocks and curses at him, he's not sure where they are headed, or if Absalom is going to pursue him - he's got a lot on his plate
- Overwhelmed might be an understatement - but when he is he knows where to go, just as do we.

*I'm thinking of Jesus as David later writes:*

**Psalm 62:6** "He only is my rock and my salvation: He is my defence; I shall not be moved."

- Prayer lifts us up. No matter how low we start, as we pray, we end up at that Rock that is higher than I.

V: 3 David is declaring that he and God have a history, and in that God has shown Himself faithful.

- The image of those fortified towers of hewn stone, the protection from arrows and spears, a safe place in the battle.

V: 4 I'm going to stay in that safe place in God's holy place, trusting in the covering of His wings.

**Psalm 91:1-2** “<sup>1</sup>He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. <sup>2</sup>I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in Him will I trust.”

- In prayer we can reach farther, and higher, and prayer draws us ever closer to Him, into the shadow, the covering of his wings - right next to His heart. Perhaps that where being a man after God’s own heart is.

**V: 5** God has heard David’s vows, David is committed and God knows it.

- David has that legacy, that inheritance of the Lord. He is confident of his salvation.

- Prayer helps us reach farther, sends us higher, draws us closer; and prayer makes us richer, it gives us a heritage. We become richer in the things of the Lord.

**V: 6** David knows that ultimately God will preserve him.

- Prayer results in a longer life; medical studies have confirmed this. Longer in this world and the eternal life to come!
- This Psalm begins with that cry for God’s intervention, but it ends with the certainty of victory in the Lord.

**V: 7-8** David is confident that not only will God preserve him, but that as His child he will one day stand in His presence, David’s greatest desire will be fulfilled.

**Psalm 27:4** “One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.”

- Prayer results in a happier life; also the subject of scientific studies the results of which agree with God’s word.

**John 16:24** “... ask (pray) and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.”

- Ultimately His victory is our victory, if we’ll accept Him.