

“Hiding in Thee” ***Psalm 57.1-11***

INTRO:

Reading **Psalm 57** starts a familiar hymn echoing in my heart. The hymn says:

***“O SAFE TO THE ROCK THAT IS HIGHER THAN I / MY SOUL IN ITS CONFLICTS AND
SORROWS WOULD FLY; / SO SINFUL, SO WEARY, THINE, THINE WOULD I BE /
THOU BLEST ROCK OF AGES / I’M HIDING IN THEE.”***

The last verse says:

***“HOW OFT IN THE CONFLICT, WHEN PRESSED BY THE FOE, / I HAVE FLED TO MY
REFUGE AND BREATHED OUT MY WOE; / HOW OFTEN, WHEN TRIALS LIKE SEA
BILLOWS ROLL, / HAVE I HIDDEN IN THEE, O THOU ROCK OF MY SOUL.”***

This is exactly what David did in this Psalm.

From the title we learned that this Psalm was written in a particularly difficult time in David’s life. He has been fleeing from King Saul and has gone to Gath where he barely escapes with his life. Having fled Gath, he found a hiding place in the cave of Adullam. It is probably in this cave that David wrote this Psalm of praise to God. There are three parts to this Psalm.

I. Stanza One (v.1-4)

II. Stanza Two (v. 6-10)

III. The Chorus (v. 5, 11)

I. Stanza One (v.1-4)

Psalm 57:1–4 “Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; and in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, Until these calamities have passed by. I will cry out to God Most High, To God who performs all things for me. He shall send from heaven and save me; He reproaches the one who would swallow me up. Selah God shall send forth His mercy and His truth. My soul is among lions; I lie among the sons of men Who are set on fire, Whose teeth are spears and arrows, And their tongue a sharp sword.”

A. Although David wrote this Psalm at a difficult time in his life, it is a very positive Psalm. In this first verse of the first stanza, David cries out for mercy and teaches us how to take our refuge in God.

1. Because David sensed the trouble he is in and the difficulties that he faced, He cried out to God for mercy. **(Psalm 57:1a)**

“Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You.”

David’s hope of deliverance is not in armies or weapons, it is God alone.

2. But no sooner does David cry out for mercy than he begins to draw strength from who this God is who hears his pleas. **(Psalm 57:1b)**

“And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, until these calamities have passed by.”

This is a beautiful image and it is a common one in the Psalms. **Psalm 17** David prayed for protection from his enemies. (v. 8)

“Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me under the shadow of Your wings.”

Psalm 61:1-4 *“Hear my cry, O God; attend to my prayer. From the end of the earth I will cry to You, when my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For You have been a shelter for me, A strong tower from the enemy. I will abide in Your tabernacle forever; I will trust in the shelter of Your wings. Selah.”*

Psalm 91:1-4, *“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.’ Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the perilous pestilence. He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler.”*

I am not sure that we fully understand what David meant by this image, but we can glean that at the very least he saw being under God’s wings as a place of safety and provision.

B. David’s confidence builds in v. 2 as he speaks of God as the ***“Most High”*** God.
“I will cry out to God Most High, to God who performs all things for me.”

1. The Most High God is the creator of heaven and earth. He is the Sovereign Lord of the Universe and it is in the fact that He made and controls all things that David rests. God provided all that David needed. Still, this is not a let go and let God statement. David did not just sit and wait out Saul in the cave of Adullam. No, David sought always to know God’s will and to do it.

2. What provision would God make for him? (v. 3)

“He shall send from heaven and save me; He reproaches the one who would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth His mercy and His truth.”

God will send forth His steadfast love and His faithfulness to deliver David. God would not allow David to be killed.

II. Stanza Two (v. 6-10)

Psalm 57:6-10 *“They have prepared a net for my steps; My soul is bowed down; They have dug a pit before me; Into the midst of it they themselves have fallen. Selah. My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise. Awake, my glory! Awake, lute and harp! I will awaken the dawn. I will praise You, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing to You among the nations. For Your mercy reaches unto the heavens, And Your truth unto the clouds.”*

A. After the chorus is sung, David returns to the situation with his enemies in v. 6;

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

David speaks of their efforts being foiled by God. Perhaps, he so assured of its taking place so he speaks of it as already accomplished.

B. **Vs. 7-10** are a celebration of praise to God for Who He is. There are two thoughts I want to stop a moment and explore. The first is this wonderful statement in **v. 7**.

“My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise.”

1. David states that his heart is set, firm, and unmoving upon God. He is determined to focus upon God and not to let his heart turn away from Him.

2. How do we do that? I am not sure that I fully know the answer to this question, but I would offer three thoughts.

First, the steadfast mind belongs to one who has chosen to trust in the face of trouble or when he or she is afraid. We can quote **Philippians 4:6-7**, but do we actively practice it?

Second, the steadfast mind belongs to one who is determined to have a single heart. We read in **James 1** what we are to do when we lack wisdom.

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

What can we do about our divided hearts? **Psalm 86:11** tells us:

“Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear Your name.”

Finally, we find in **Isaiah 26:3** that if we anchor our hearts upon the Lord, He gives us peace.

“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.”

C. Second, let us think a moment upon David’s statement in **v. 10**. Here is a second reason for David’s praise. ***“God’s steadfast love, mercy, kindness reaches to the heavens.”*** One cannot measure it because it is infinite. This is not unlike the Lord’s statement to Paul, ***“My grace is sufficient for you!”*** (**2 Corinthians 12:9**) God’s grace will never be lacking to us. This is coupled with the truth that God’s truth and faithfulness is equally infinite and endless. God’s truth and God’s faithfulness stands sure.

III. The Chorus (v. 5, 11)

A. Let us now consider the chorus that is repeated. ***“Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; Let Your glory be above all the earth.”*** (Psalm 57:11)

B. What is David praying for in this chorus which is repeated twice? Some commentators see this as simply David bursting forth in praise to God, but they miss the fact that David couches his chorus in the form of a prayer request.

1. He does not say, *“God is exalted above the heavens and His glory is over all the earth.”* He makes it a request, a statement of the ultimate desire of his heart. *“Be exalted, O God.”*

C. How does David want God to be exalted? This request cannot be divorced from the historical context. David wanted God to be exalted in David’s own life in the cave of Adullam. He wanted God to be exalted as high as He could possibly be exalted in David’s own life and in the circumstances that he was in at that very moment.

1. When is God most glorified? Sometimes God is glorified in the midst of the most difficult moments of our lives? Consider the lesson that Paul learned in **2 Corinthians 12.7-10**; *“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore, I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”*

2. How could God be exalted in a cave? No one would see what David was going through would they? How about us? When we are going through hard times, how is God exalted in these moments in our lives? We also see David exalting God in his response to these difficult circumstances through this Psalm.

How about us? Is this the great desire of our lives? Let us seek to glorify God in good times, but also in the difficult times. That He might be exalted as high as we can possibly exalt Him and that His glory would be seen by all who see us