

Psalm 54:1-7

Psalm 53 is about people who live and act as if "there is no God."

In Psalm 54, the psalmist finds himself surrounded by just such people and writes as a believer living by faith in those very circumstances.

Summary

In Psalm 54, David faces the problem of living amongst wicked unbelievers and looks to God, not only to send a future Deliverer, but also to give the present help that he needs.

1. Background Trials

This psalm was written when David was on the run from King Saul.

David had left his stronghold in the caves of Adullam in order to deliver the city of Keilah from the Philistines. After the victory, David discovered that the men of Keilah intended to betray him to Saul (**1 Sam. 23:12**) and so fled to the desert region of Ziph. Then David learned that the Ziphites were going to him to Saul. Facing such devastating betrayal again, David remembered that he could always trust in God and turn to him for help.

Psalm 54 is therefore a psalm for all who feel hopeless, abandoned, or betrayed.

2. Right Response vv. 1-6.

Psalm 54 shows us how we are take our troubles to God in prayer.

- David began his prayer by confessing and acknowledging his relationship to God (**54:1**).
- David unburdened himself to God in his prayer (**54:2**).
- In the midst of grievous trials, David prayed, rejoicing in God. (**54:4**).
- David presented his specific requests to God in prayer (**54:3; 5**).
- David offered his thankful response to God in prayer (**54:6-7**).

Believers in Christ can enter into the spirit of David's prayer even though God may or may not decide to deliver us from our outward trials.

Whatever may befall the Christian under God's wise providence in life, every believer may rejoice with perfect confidence that his or her soul is secure in the faithful, gracious safekeeping name of God.

3. Messianic Psalm

David's plea depicts the experience of Jesus as he lived in this fallen world.

The Lord Jesus prayed in the spirit of Psalm 54 : "O God, save me by your name For strangers have risen against me; ruthless men seek my life Behold, God is my helper For he has delivered me from every trouble, and my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies."

Psalm 54 likewise helps every Christian who carries the cross of Christ in this world. In our weakness amid the deserts of Ziph in which God has called us to suffer, Christ will show himself strong through grace and bring glory to himself as the helper of his needy people.

The Father heard Jesus, helped him, and saved him through the empty tomb just as He heard and saved David.

Christians, too, can trust God to hear them, be their helper and save them.