

## **Psalm 57:1-11**

Seeking God for deliverance from evil foes is a recurring activity in the Christian life. We see this specifically in book 2 of the psalter, where many of the psalms of David share a common theme of prayer for deliverance from wicked oppressors.

### **Summary**

**In Psalm 57, David continues to be threatened by ruthless enemies, yet his heart is steadfast in a sure hope of salvation.**

#### **1. Assured Prayer vv. 1-4**

Psalm 57 can be divided into two sections, both of which conclude with a refrain calling for God's glory.

The first section contains the prayer of a confident faith (**Psalm 57:1-4**).

David uses the picture of sheltering beneath "the shadow of your wings" (**Psalm 57:1b**). God calls believers to take shelter in Him.

David acknowledges here that God, Most High, is able to do whatever is needed for David's good (**Psalm 57:2-3**)

He concludes the first section of this psalm by contrasting the violence directed against him with the peace he has found in God (**Ps. 57:4**).

How can David possess this peace?

He knows himself to be safe in the hands of a loving, faithful, and mighty God. Like David, we too may be confident of the same God's deliverance, trusting his steadfast love and faithfulness to save all who call on God's mercy.

#### **2. Steadfast Heart vv. 6-7a**

The second half of the psalm outlines the reason for David's peacefulness, the settling of David's heart steadfastly in God and his desire that God should receive all the glory.

David explains that his peace comes from knowing that the wicked will ultimately do harm only to themselves. (**Psalm 57:6**).

Armed with this insight regarding the end of evil, David explains the strength he has gained in the refuge of which he spoke in the first section: "My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast" (**Ps. 57:7**)

The key to enduring the trials of life is to be steadfast in faith as we seek refuge in God.

Both in Psalm 57 and in the teaching of the Lord Jesus, the steadfastness of our hearts is tested and revealed by our response to trials.

### **3. Grateful Plea vv. 7b-10**

David is hiding in the Lord, steadfast in faith beneath the shelter of the Lord's wings. He desires, therefore, not merely safety for himself but more importantly that his deliverance would bring glory to God.

First, David wants his own life to give praise to the Lord (**Ps. 57:7b-8**).

Secondly, David desires for God's glory to be exalted among all the nations (**Psalm 57:9**).

David's resolve in Psalm 57:9 for God's glory to be exalted among all the nations was perfectly achieved in the resurrection and exaltation of Christ, as the Old Testament's longing for the Messiah was fulfilled to the praise of God's steadfast love and faithfulness.

### **4. Glorious Exaltation vv. 5; 11**

Psalm 57 urges God to display his glory in the fabric of all history (**Psalm 57:5, 11**). David sees that the ultimate cause and goal of his salvation is the exaltation of God's glory in all things and to all people.

Psalm 57 invites believers to understand their lives as forming part of a great project spanning all history, in which God is bringing glory to his grace for all eternity.

David sang "Be exalted, O God, above the heavens" (**Ps. 57:5, 11**), during a period of great trial, as he was sheltered in the cave and hiding in the shadow of God's saving wings.

It is the privilege of all believers to say the same.