

Seeking Refuge in the Shadow of the Almighty

Psalm 59

Historical Context: 1 Samuel 19:11-18

Inscription: Michtam. When Saul sent, and they watched the house to kill him

Poetical Structure: Alternate Parallelism (A,B,A,B)

Poetic Layout of Psalm 59

- 1) Deliver me from mine enemies, O my God:
Defend me from them that rise up against me.
- 2) Deliver me from the workers of iniquity,
And save me from bloody men.
- 3) For, lo, they lie in wait for my soul:
The mighty are gathered against me;
Not for my transgression, nor for my sin, O Lord.
- 4) They run and prepare themselves without my fault:
Awake to help me, and behold.
- 5) Thou therefore, O Lord God of hosts, the God of Israel,
Awake to visit all the heathen:
Be not merciful to any wicked transgressors. Selah.
- 6) They return at evening:
They make a noise like a dog,
And go round about the city.
- 7) Behold, they belch out with their mouth:
Swords are in their lips:
For who, say they, doth hear?

- 8) But thou, O Lord, shalt laugh at them;
Thou shalt have all the heathen in derision.
- 9) Because of his strength will I wait upon thee:
For God is my defence.
- 10) The God of my mercy shall prevent me:
God shall let me see my desire upon mine enemies.
- 11) Slay them not, lest my people forget:
Scatter them by thy power;
And bring them down, O Lord our shield.
- 12) For the sin of their mouth
and the words of their lips
Let them even be taken in their pride:
And for cursing and lying which they speak.
- 13) Consume them in wrath,
consume them, that they may not be:
And let them know that God ruleth in Jacob
Unto the ends of the earth. Selah.
- 14) And at evening let them return;
And let them make a noise like a dog,
And go round about the city.
- 15) Let them wander up and down for meat,
And grudge if they be not satisfied.
- 16) But I will sing of thy power;
Yea, I will sing aloud
of thy mercy in the morning:
For thou hast been my defence
And refuge in the day of my trouble.
- 17) Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing:
For God is my defence,
and the God of my mercy.

Outline

- I. The danger David was in (v. 1-9)
 - A. David's prayer for himself (v. 1-5)
 1. His plea for protection (v. 1-2)
 2. His panic at the preparation of the enemy (v. 3-4a)
 3. His perspective of his God (v. 4b-5)
 - B. David's song of God's Strength (v. 6-9)
 1. The picture of the enemy (v. 6-7)
 - a. Their wildness (v. 6)
 - b. Their wandering (v. 6)
 - c. Their words (v. 7)
 2. The picture of his God (v. 8-9)
- II. The deliverance David received (v. 10-17)
 - A. David's prayer against his enemies (v. 10-13)
 1. His confidence in God (v. 10)
 2. His ask of God (v. 11-13)
 - a. He asked that his people recognizes the judgment of God (v. 11-12)
 - b. He asked that evil men recognizes the justice of God (v. 13)
 - B. David's praise for his deliverance (v. 14-17)
 1. His peace with his situation (v. 14-15)
 2. His focus of singing (v. 16-17)
 - a. The power of God
 - b. The mercy of God
 - c. The protection of God

Definitions

- *Deliver* - to snatch away, pull away to safety
- *Defend* - to be set securely on high, too high to be captured
- *Save* - to deliver or liberate from evil
- *Lie in wait* - lie in wait to ambush
- *Gathered* - to turn or gather together with the root meaning of treating with hostility or attack
- *Awake* - to wake, stir up (the same idea of opening the eyes)
- *Help* - to call to meet someone (same Hebrew word in 1 Samuel 17:48 translated *meet me*)
- *Belch out* - gush, ferment, pour out
- *Visit* - to search, test or punish
- *Be not merciful* - show or be shown compassion
- *Scatter* - cause to move to and fro, make unstable, shake up
- *Bring them down* - cause to fall down
- *Consume* - stop, come to an end, vanish, fade away

Meditation Guide

1. David speaks of God as his fortress and refuge in times of trouble. What does it mean to find refuge in God? How can you experience His protection in your life?
2. David describes his enemies as "dogs." What picture does this metaphor make in your mind?
3. The psalm ends with a declaration of praise and thanksgiving. How do you maintain a posture of gratitude in difficult circumstances?
4. David speaks of God as his strength and stronghold. How do you rely on God's strength in your own life? How does He provide a firm foundation amidst life's challenges?
5. David prays for justice and judgment against his enemies. How do you reconcile the concept of justice with forgiveness and grace in your own life?
6. David's plea for deliverance highlights the tension between personal desires and God's will. How do you navigate this tension in your own prayers and desires?
7. David acknowledges God's sovereignty and authority over the nations. How does recognizing God's authority impact your perspective on the world and its challenges?