

The Faithful Fugitive

Psalm 57

Historical Context: Either 1 Samuel 22 (Aullam) or 1 Samuel 24 (Engedi)

Inscription: To the chief Musician, Al-taschith, Michtam of David, when he fled from Saul in the cave.

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

Verses 1-4 (A)

Verse 5 (B)

Verse 6-10 (A)

Verse 11 (B)

Poetical Layout

- 1) Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me:
For my soul trusteth in thee:
Yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge,
Until these calamities be overpast.
- 2) I will cry unto God most high;
Unto God that performeth all things for me.
- 3) He shall send from heaven, and save me
From the reproach of him that would swallow me up.
Selah.

God shall send forth his mercy and his truth.
- 4) My soul is among lions:

And I lie even among them that are set on fire,
even the sons of men,
Whose teeth are spears and arrows,
And their tongue a sharp sword.

- 5) *Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens;
Let thy glory be above all the earth.*
- 6) They have prepared a net for my steps;
My soul is bowed down:
They have digged a pit before me,
Into the midst whereof they are fallen themselves.
Selah.
- 7) My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed:
I will sing and give praise.
- 8) Awake up, my glory;
awake, psaltery and harp:
I myself will awake early.
- 9) I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people:
I will sing unto thee among the nations.
- 10) For thy mercy is great unto the heavens,
And thy truth unto the clouds.
- 11) *Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens:
Let thy glory be above all the earth.*

Outline

- I. David's prayer during his calamities (v. 1-4)
 - A. His prayer for the Lord to hide him (v. 1)
 - B. His prayer for the Lord to hear him (v. 2)
 - C. His prayer for the Lord to help him (v. 3)
 - D. His picture of his foes (v. 4)
 1. Their savagery (v. 4a)
 2. Their seriousness (v. 4b)
 3. Their sharpness (v. 4d-e)
- II. David's praise following his calamities (v. 5)
- III. David's confidence during his crisis (v. 6-10)
 - A. His watchful confidence (v. 6)
 - B. His willing confidence (v. 7)
 - C. His waking confidence (v. 8)
 - D. His witnessing confidence (v. 9)
 - E. His worshipping confidence (v. 10)
- IV. David's commendation following his crisis (v. 11)

Definitions

Merciful - show favor, be gracious

Trusteth - seek refuge

Refuge - same as trusteth

Performeth - end, come to an end, complete

Swallow - gasp, pant, be a nuisance, pester

Exalted - be high above, rise, lift up

Fixed - firm, make ready

Poem

"Hidden in His Wings"

By: Aaron C. Boone

Hidden in His Wings, a place secure and true,
God's strength and protection, He bestows on you.
His children find solace, wrapped in His embrace,
Comfort and joy, bestowed with boundless grace.

Amidst life's trials, when troubles may arise,
God's wings enfold, where sanctuary lies.
With steadfast love, He shields from every harm,
His children find shelter, safe from all alarm.

In times of weakness, when strength seems to wane,
God's wings unfurl, their power shall sustain.
He lifts us high, on eagles' wings we soar,
Renewed and empowered, forevermore.

Though storms may rage and darkness may descend,
God's light shines bright, a beacon without end.
In His embrace, we find true peace and rest,
Surrounded by love, eternally blessed.

So let us take refuge, in His wings so wide,
Where strength and protection forever reside.
For in His presence, joy and comfort bloom,
Hidden in His wings, we find our truest home.

Meditation Guide

1. How does the psalmist's plea for God's mercy and protection resonate with your own experiences of seeking refuge and deliverance?
2. Reflect on times when you have felt surrounded by difficulties or enemies. How did you turn to God for help and find solace in His faithfulness?
3. In what ways does the psalmist's trust in God's steadfast love and faithfulness inspire you to deepen your own trust and reliance on Him?
4. Consider the imagery of God's wings as a shelter and refuge. How does this metaphor speak to your understanding of God's care and provision in your life?
5. Explore the psalmist's expressions of praise and thanksgiving amidst challenging circumstances. How can you cultivate a heart of gratitude even in the midst of trials?
6. Reflect on the psalmist's declaration of God's sovereignty and exaltation over the earth. How does this perspective challenge your own view of God's power and authority?
7. Consider the psalmist's desire to sing and make music to praise God's glory. How can you incorporate worship and praise into your own spiritual walk?

8. Reflect on the psalmist's plea for God's mercy and forgiveness. How does this resonate with your own need for God's grace and forgiveness in your life?
9. Explore the psalmist's longing for God's glory to be known among the nations. How can you actively participate in sharing the good news of God's love and salvation with others?
10. Reflect on the psalmist's ultimate trust in God's faithfulness and steadfast love. How can you cultivate a deeper sense of trust and dependence on God in your own life?